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BISHOP MALLORY TO HEAD EL CAMINO REAL DIOCESE

SALINAS, Calif.--The newest diocese in the Episcopal Church -- the Diocese of El Camino Real in California -- has followed the lead of another fledgling diocese and chosen an experienced bishop to be the first chief pastor of the diocese.

At its organizing and electing convention at St. Paul's Church here June 20-21, the former southern portion of the Diocese of California chose the Rt. Rev. C. Shannon Mallory, currently assistant bishop in Long Island, as its first bishop. The Diocese of Western Louisiana had tagged the Rt. Rev. Willis R. Henton, Bishop of Northwest Texas, to lead that new work, in late April.

Bishop Mallory, 43, served almost all of his ministry in Africa including seven years as Bishop of Botswana in the Province of Central Africa. As Assistant Bishop of Long Island he is responsible for stimulating and promoting spiritual renewal and evangelism throughout the diocese and for pastoral care with clergy families.

Bishop Mallory was elected on the ninth ballot from a field of seven men. His closest competitor was the Rev. George Buenz, a priest of the new diocese. The Rt. Rev. William E. Swing, Bishop of California from which the new jurisdiction will officially separate July 1, presided.

The new diocese will consist of 40 congregations, 100 priests and about 13,000 members in the coast counties of Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Benito and San Luis Obispo and most of the southern portion of Santa Clara County. Bishop Mallory will recommend a see city for the new diocese at a later date.

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Bishop Mallory was ordained priest in 1961. He holds degrees from University of California in Los Angeles, General Theological Seminary and Rhodes University. He served in the Diocese of Damaraland, and on the faculty of Makerere University in Uganda from which he was elected to the episcopate in 1972. He became Assistant Bishop in Long Island in 1979 and was accepted into collegial membership of the Episcopal Church House of Bishops in that year.

Once he receives the required consents from the majority of bishops and standing committees of the Church, a date will be set for his installation and he will probably be seated as a full member of the House -- with both voice and vote -- at its October, 1980 meeting in Chattanooga, Tenn.

He is a native of Texas and he and his wife, Armonda Lou, have five children.

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